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ABSTRACT

"El Dia de la Raza", considered the birthday of the mestizo, is the topic of this unit for the secondary level. As unit objectives, the students are to demonstrate (1) their comprehension by stating 3 major areas of contributions the Indians and the Spaniards gave the mestizo culture and (2) their concept of mestizaje by participating in oral discussions utilizing 5 study questions. The history of El Dia de la Raza, which is celebrated on October 12 throughout Latin America, covers the topics of Christopher Columbus' trips to America; the origins of La Raza; the mestizo culture; the settlement of the Spaniards in Mexico; and Chicano contributions to today's society. Included with the unit are suggested activities; 5 study questions; a glossary of 23 Spanish words used throughout the unit; and 4 poems about the Chicano. (NQ)

ED 089910

Día De La Raza

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MODULE
Secondary Level

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Viva
La Raza
Mexicano!
Espanol!
Latino!
Hispano!
Chicano!
or
Whatever you call me
I look the same
I feel the same
I cry and
sing the same

Dia de La Raza

Objectives

1. The students will demonstrate their comprehension of the unit on "El Dia de La Raza" by stating three major areas of contributions the Indians and Spaniards gave the mestizo culture.

2. The students will demonstrate their concept of mestizaje by participating in oral discussions utilizing study questions 1-5.

Oral Questions for Discussion

1. Why do we celebrate "Dia de La Raza?"

2. What kind of celebration is held in Crystal City on October 12?

3. What do you think our lives would be like today if Christopher Colombus had not come to America in 1492? How would Chicano language and culture have been different if the original explorers had been from England or France?

4. What is a mestizo? Give some examples of the mixture of Spanish and Indian culture. How have the resulting Mexican traditions and ways been changed by Chicanos in the Southwest?

5. How is the way the Mexican language developed similar to the way the Chicano language has developed in the Southwest?

Suggested Activities

1. Have students listen to cassette of "Hermanos Pinzones" and students follow words in their unit. Other related music is "Yo Soy Chicano" and "Bella Ciao."

2. Read for class discussion the enclosed poem, "Aztlán."

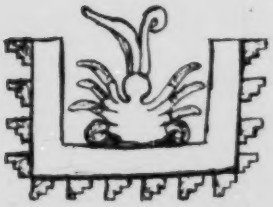
3. Role Playing--have students act out their own version of the landing of Columbus or devise a short "skit" related to "Dia de La Raza," telling what it means to today's Chicano.

Activities continued

4. For younger students, have students fill in dialogue for extra cartoons provided or design their own cartoons and version of "Dia de La Raza."

5. For younger students, play vocabulary bingo. Have students fill in vocabulary words in squares of their choice on sheet provided. Each student should have a different vocabulary pattern on his 16 squares. Teacher will call out definitions and students will mark the appropriate square after matching the definition with the proper term.

6. For older students, write a short comparison of Columbus Day as celebrated in the United States and "Dia de La Raza" as celebrated in Spanish-speaking America. (See The American Book of Days, Douglas, page 529 or Holidays, Dupuy, page 110--both available in the high school library.)



Día De La Raza

Día de la Raza is celebrated throughout Latin America on October 12 as the birthday of the mestizo. This day, which is called Columbus Day in the United States, marks the day Cristobal Colón first came to America and united Spanish and Indian peoples to produce "La Raza."

Colón was an Italian admiral who believed the world was round instead of flat. He wanted to prove it by sailing westward and reaching land but had no money for such a voyage. Queen Isabel of Spain agreed to pay for his three ships and crew and Colón set out for the new world. He arrived at a small island he named San Salvador[1] October 12, 1492 with his three ships, the Niña, the Pinta and the Santa María. He was the first European to see the "new world",[2] and he did it in the name of Spain.

Cristobal Colón, or Christopher Colombus as his name was in English or Cristofero Colombo as his name was in Italian, probably expected the newly-found continent to be named after him. However, another Italian explorer, Amerigo Vespucci, visited the coast of South America sometime later and returned to tell tales of his discoveries. A German geographer[3]

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[1] San Salvador - see map

[2] "new world" - Many people believe that a Scandinavian explorer first landed in the new world centuries earlier. This theory has never been proven.

[3] geographer - someone who makes and studies maps

Cristobal Colon first came to the new world in 1492.

who was making a map of the new world heard these stories and put the name "America" in large letters on the new continent. If he had not, we might be living in North Columbia rather than North America.

When Colón landed on the islands of San Salvador, in the Caribbean Sea, he met a group of natives living there. Thinking he had reached the far-off country of India, he called the people, "indios". Though this was a mistake, it was never corrected and to this day, the natives of this continent are still called indios or Indians. Unknowingly, Colón had opened the door for the birth of a new people--the mestizos.

When Colón returned to Spain and told Queen [redacted]el what he had found, the queen sent other expeditions[4] to the New World in hopes of finding riches for Spain.

One of the most important findings was in 1519 by a Spaniard, Hernán Cortés. He found the very advanced civilization of the Aztec Indians. But the Aztecs had "borrowed" much of their culture and customs from the surrounding tribes they had conquered. When these two civilizations met--two great cultures came together--the Spanish culture from Europe and the Indian culture from the New World.

The Spanish explorers and colonists brought many of their customs from home. Among the customs brought were the foods they ate, such as "pan de trigo, vino, aceitunas, naranjas" and other fruits. With them came their language which is a combination of Arabic (the Moors from Northern Africa had invaded and lived in Spain for about 1,000 years) and Spanish. Some of the Moorish or Arabic words which are used in Spanish are "alfombra", "almohada" and the phrase "ojalá que" which originally meant "may Allah grant that..."

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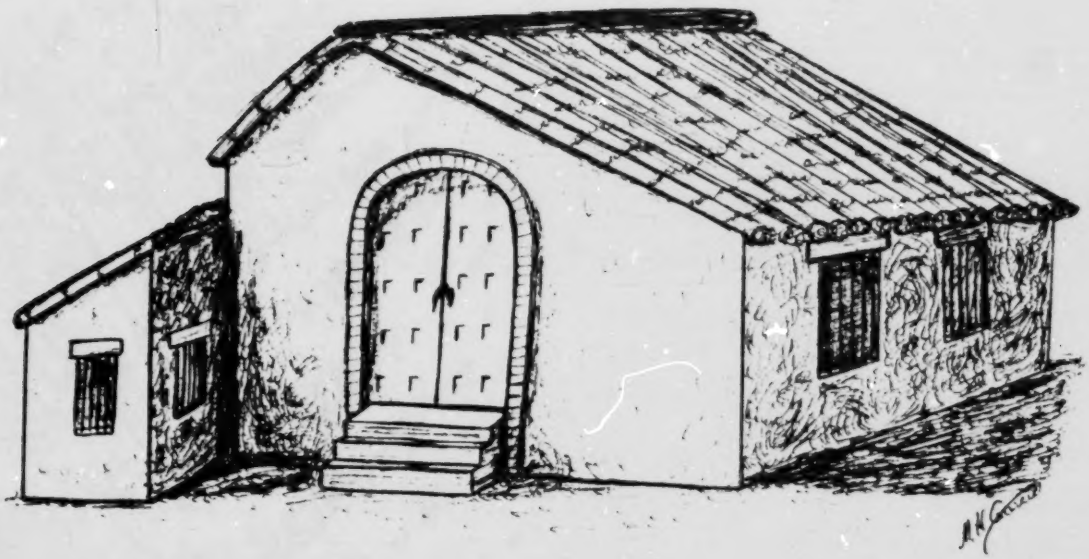
[4]expeditions - a journey

Spaniards intermarried with Indians to produce "La Raza".



Mexican architecture is a combination of Spanish and Indian design.

Allah was the name for God in the Moorish religion. This rich language, which is really a combination of two other languages came to the new world with the Spaniards.

Also, the Spanish people brought their style of architecture--the use of arches in doorways and windows, white stucco[5] walls and red tiles on the roof. They also built aqueducts to carry water from one place to another.

The Indians who had been living in what is today Mexico also had a great civilization. It had been in existence long before the Spaniards came. The "indios" had their own languages-one of these was called Náhuatl. Some words still used today which originally come from Náhuatl are "guajolote", "molcajete," "México," and "mole." The foods they ate included "un pan de maíz" which was like a thick corn tortilla. They used a "metate" and "molcajete" to grind their corn to make their "panecitos." They also

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[5]stucco - white, rough plaster

Un metate.

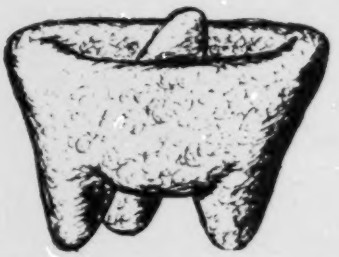
ate "tamales and mole".

The "indios" were very advanced in medicine. They knew which "yerbitas" would cure most illnesses and the most advanced tribes even had "doctors" who performed simple operations.

Some tribes of indios were very advanced in science. Some civilizations had planetariums[6] and they would study the heavens--the moon, earth, stars and even the planets.

Other tribes of "indios" were very advanced in mathematics. They could figure not only elementary but also very advanced mathematics such as geometry and trigonometry.

What happened when two such great cultures met? Spanish colonists married Indian women and their children were a combination of two worlds and two cultures and they were called mestizos. Soon after the "conquista de México" by Cortés, there were many more mestizos.



Un molcajete.

The Spanish language began to adapt[7] some of the Indian words--soon, the language in Mexico was a combination of both the Spanish and Indian languages. The foods eaten in Mexico were also a combination of Spanish and Indian foods. The Spaniards learned more about "yerbitas" to cure

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[6] planetariums - a room with a large dome and telescopes used to study the stars.

[7] adapt - to adjust

illnesses and the Indios used some of their fruit leaves to make "tesitos". The "Mexican" architecture became a mixture of the Spanish and Indian styles. These are some examples of the fusion[8] of these two cultures. This blending of people and their customs became "el mestizaje". "La Raza de Bronce" had emerged.[9]

Slowly in Mexican history, the mestizo came to rule and led his country. México had taken two existing cultures and created a beautiful new one. Many colonies in northern México (today the United States Southwest--New México, Texas, Colorado, California and Arizona) had mostly mestizo residents, although there were a few "españoles puros."

When the cruel Mexican-American war was settled in 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, most of the mestizos living in the Southwest became United States citizens. They were guaranteed full rights, but most were not treated as equals by the Anglo settlers who had moved into the Southwest.

Being far away from the Anglo colonies, yet next door to Mexico, most of the United States mestizo citizens kept their culture, language and traditions. It is from this situation that the United States mestizos have become known as Chicanos. The Aztecs who originally lived in what is now the United States Southwest were called by the Náhuatl word, "mechicas". Eventually, the word evolved into Chicano.

When the Anglo settlers began to move into the Southwest, they came in contact with the Chicanos in the area. Many chicanos felt caught between two worlds--that of their mestizo ancestors[10] and that of the Anglos.

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[8]fusion - combination

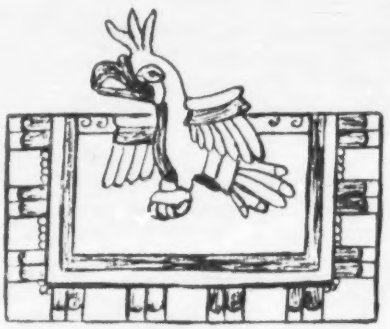
[9]emerged - to become visable

[10]ancestors - persons from whom one is descended.

The Anglos spoke English and had very different customs. La Raza in the Southwest kept most of their culture, but changes were taking place.

Today, the Chicano is finding out who he is and where he comes from. He is proud of his mestizo heritage and is publicly reviving his customs and traditions. Today's Chicano, especially in South Texas, speaks a combination of Spanish and English. Along with English and Spanish words are combination words such as "la troca", "parkear" and "bloque." Although some people do not approve of Chicano language combinations, all other languages in the world are also an outgrowth[11] of two other "idiomas".

Chicano food is also made of combinations. What is often advertised in the Southwest as "Spanish" food is really a combination of Spanish and Indian food. The Mexican food that was originally made from Spanish and Indian combinations has also been changed somewhat by the influence of Anglo culture. "Tortillas de



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[11] outgrowth - a result.

harina" are made in the same form as the original Indian corn tortillas but are made with the white flour brought by the Anglo settlers.

Culturally, Chicanos are a very rich people. El doce de octubre, El Día de la Raza is set aside to celebrate the beginning of the mestizo people when Christopher Colombus, Cristobal Colón, first landed in the new world Chicanos, Mexicanos, Sud Americanos, Puertorriqueños y toda la gente de habla española stop on this day to honor "la gran combinación de La Raza de Bronce."

Glossary

aceitunas - olives

alfombra - rug

almohada - pillow

conquista de México - the conquest of Mexico

españoles - the Spaniards

espanoles puros - the "pure" Spaniards; referring to their pure bloodlines.

franceses - the French

guajolote - turkey

idiomas - languages

la gran combinación de la Raza de Bronce - the great combination of the Bronze race.

La Raza de Bronce - the Bronze Race

metate - small limestone slab used to grind corn with a stone-like roller.

molcajete - a limestone mortar and pestle tool used in the kitchen

mole - chocolate, peanut, red pepper sauce used to cook poultry, goats, etc.

naranjas - oranges

ojalá que - I hope that...

pan de trigo - wheat bread

panecitos - little cakes; like a thick pancake

tesitos - teas (little teas)

toda la gente de habla española - all the Spanish-speaking people

un pan de maíz - corn bread

vino - wine

yerbitas - herbs

GREENLAND
NORTH
CANADA
AMERICA
ICELAND
UNITED STATES
EUROPE
NORTH ATLANTIC
OCEAN
SPAIN
San Salvador
MEXICO
CUBA
AFRICA
SOUTH
AMERICA
M.N. Garcia

AZTLÁN

By
Ricardo Sanchez

guitarras, cantos, y gritos

ecos viejos
que rescatan
imágenes indígenos
de Aztlán...

de aquellos tiempos
enboscados

mi sangre
es malinchada

como el acero hispano
curtido en mezcal

y aunque
yo hablo espanol,
soy primero indio azteca;

alteranista de Tenochtitlán,
Cuauhtemoc Tlatelolqueño
mezclado con madrileño
con salsa de moro-islam
y ramas del Israel;

soy negro en el verano,
trigeño en el otoño,
y güero en el invierno,

pero chicano primaveral.

Aztlán, Aztlán, AZTLÁN
envuelves mi alma en canto,
las tierras que he perdido
las voy a rescatar...

AZTLÁN

By
Ricardo Sanchez

guitars, songs, and soul/expletives

ancient echoes
rescuing
indigenous imagery
of northern Aztec Lands...

of those old forested
epochs

my blood mist, merges two peoples

like spanish steel
annealed by meso-america

and though my language is spanish,
primarily am I aztec;

aztec city rebel,
Cuauhtemoc from Tlatelolco
merged with madrilean
inbiber of moorish islam
and off shoot of israel:

I am black in summer,
autumnally bronzed,
and even wintry colorlessness,

but ever multi-hued spring.

Aztlán, Aztlán, AZTLÁN
embroiling my soul in chants,
the lands that we have lost
la raza shall get them back.

Hermanos Pinzon

Los hermanos Pinzones
Eran unos marineros,
Que se fueron con Colón
Que era un viejo bucanero.[1]

Y se fueron de aquí juntos
En busca de algunas playas
Y los indios, Otilones[2]
Les cortaron, la retirada.

Al piloto, Pedamulo,
le quisieron, dar por muerto
Y a su hermano, Obadilla
Lo llenaron de laureles.

La reina Isabel, con sus alhajas,
Cuando Colón le hizo la historia,
A la reina de Castilla
Le gustaba las riquezas.[3]

Y aquellos indios, sembraron frutos,
Para los hijos de España.

[1]bucanero - buccaneer (a pirate or sea robber)

[2]Otilones - name of the Indian tribe!

[3]riquezas - riches

Yo Soy Chicano

Yo soy Chicano, tengo color
Americano, pero con honor
Cuando me dicen que hay revolución
Defiendo a mi raza, con mucho valor

Coro

Tengo todita a mi gente
Para la revolución,
Voy a luchar con los pobres,
Pa'que se acabe el bolón.

Coro

Tengo mi par de caballos
Para la revolución
Una se llama el Canario
Y el otro se llama el Gorrión.

Coro

Tengo mi par de pistolas
Para la revolución,
Una es una 30-30
Y la otra es una trienta dos.

Coro

Tengo mi orgullo y machismo
Mi cultura y corazón.
Tengo mi fé y diferencia
Y lucho con gran razón.

Tengo mi orgullo tengo mi fé
Soy diferente soy color café,
Tengo cultura, tengo corazón
Y no me lo quita a mi níun ladrón.

Bella Ciao

Una mañana del sol brillante
O bella ciao, bella ciao bella ciao, ciao, ciao
Una Mañana del sol brillante
En la América me ví.

Soy de la Raza, puro Chicano
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao
Soy de la Raza, puro Chicano
Aunque en la USA yo nací.

Somos un pueblo, Americano
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao
Somos un pueblo, Americano
Un pueblo indígeno.

Desde Bolivia a todo Aztlán
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao
Desde Bolivia, a todo Aztlán
Hay solo una revolución.

O guerrillero, sigue el combate,
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao
O guerrillero, sigue el combate,
Porque me siento ya morir.

Y si yo muero, en el combate
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao
Y si yo muero en el combate,
Toma en tus manos mi fusil.

Estoy luchando por la justicia
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao
Estoy luchando por la justicia
Por la justicia y libertad.